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leff, Livermore, and Deane be a Committee to advise and assist the Librarian in completing the arrangement and classification of the books in the Dowse Library.

JUNE MEETING.

The Society held their stated monthly meeting on Thursday, June 11, at noon, in the Dowse Library; the President, Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Society of Antiquaries, London; the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia; the Trustees of the Astor Library, New York; Messrs. Little, Brown, and Co.; Thomas M'Ewen, Esq., Secretary-General of the Society of the Cincinnati; Dr. Samuel H. Hurd, Somerville; Hugh B. Grigsby, Esq., Washington, D.C.; and from Messrs. Deane, Parkman, Shurtleff, Sibley, Warren, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The President announced that he had taken the liberty to extend an invitation, officially, to the American Antiquarian Society, at their late semi-annual meeting in Boston, and also to the General Society of the Cincinnati, at their first triennial meeting held in this city since their institution in 1783, to visit the Society's rooms, and view the Dowse Library; that both these societies had accordingly been received, and the various colonial and revolutionary memorials in the Society's cabinet exhibited to them.

The President communicated to the Society a letter from the American Minister at London, conveying the

gratifying intelligence that the British government, through his intervention, had presented to this Society copies of such of the publications of the British Record Commission as could conveniently be spared. He also read to the Society a letter from Lord Clarendon, and from the Master of the Rolls, relating to this valuable donation. Whereupon it was —

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate the thanks of the Massachusetts Historical Society to his Excellency George M. Dallas, the American Minister at London, for his obliging intervention in securing for the Society the publications of the British Record Commission.

Also *Resolved*, That the Massachusetts Historical Society would respectfully and gratefully acknowledge the liberal policy of the British government in the distribution of the interesting publications of the Record Commission, and would especially express their own obligations for the valuable volumes which have been added to their library by direction of her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate the foregoing resolution to the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, the Secretary of the Home Department, through the American Minister at London.

Mr. SIBLEY stated that he had in his possession twenty Triennial Catalogues of Harvard University, containing notes and memoranda by the late Rev. Dr. Pierce, which he had been authorized to retain as long as he might require their use, and had been directed afterwards to place in the Library of the Massachusetts Historical

Society. Mr. Sibley said he took occasion to mention this fact before the members of the Society, so that they might bear it in mind in case of any accident to himself. At present, these triennials are kept in the library of Harvard University, in order that they may be safe against fire and other accidents.

Voted, That the manuscript volume containing the autograph copy of Washington's Address to the officers of the American army, March 15, 1783, with several interesting letters relating to the same, be referred to the Standing Committee, with full powers.

The President announced the appointment of Hon. C. H. Warren to complete the Memoir of the late Isaac P. Davis, Esq., which was left unfinished by Dr. Lunt.

Mr. WILLARD announced the decease of Rev. William Parsons Lunt, D.D., of Quincy, his predecessor in the office of Corresponding Secretary, in a brief but appropriate eulogy, and offered the following Resolution ; which, after having been responded to in feeling terms by Messrs. Aspinwall, Gray, and Robbins, was unanimously adopted :—

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Historical Society has heard with deep sorrow of the death of the Rev. William Parsons Lunt, D. D., an honored associate and officer of our Society, whose example and influence were ever on the side of religion, truth, and duty, and to whose ardent, intelligent, and effective interest in historical pursuits, the records of our Society bear abundant testimony. We mourn his departure, and tender our sympathies to his bereaved family and his venerable father.

The President appointed Dr. Frothingham to prepare a Memoir of Dr. Lunt for the Society's Collections. The Memoir is here reprinted from the fourth volume of the Fourth Series.

MEMOIR OF WILLIAM PARSONS LUNT, D.D.

BY NATHANIEL L. FROTHINGHAM, D.D.

Rev. WILLIAM PARSONS LUNT, D.D., the Corresponding Secretary of this Society, left home on the last day of the year 1856 to travel in the East. It had always been a favorite wish of his life to visit the lands made sacred by the Scripture histories; to see the Nile and Egypt; to cross the desert, and go up to Jerusalem. This long-cherished religious desire he proposed now to fulfil. But it was only the smaller part of his vow that was granted.

Soon after his arrival at Sinai, he began to be ill. He did not venture to encounter the giddiness he would be exposed to in ascending the mountain with his companions. The next day, his malady grew serious. He was carried, in the gentlest way that circumstances allowed, to Akabàh, a small place that lay distant three or four days of slow travel, on the eastern estuary at the head of the Red Sea. The second night there was his last on earth. After a short delirium, he fell into a deep sleep, which was never broken. Thus, at that ancient haven of Ezion-Geber, he struck the sail of his modest life, and gave back a thoughtful soul to God. The next morning, March 21, 1857, his body was buried, with all decent religious ceremonies, in the sands of the wilderness.

His friend, Rev. Dr. Chandler Robbins, the Recording Secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society, has given so faithful an account of his life and character, in a volume already

in its library, that he has left little more to be said, and has removed the regret which would otherwise have been felt in the necessity of confining the present notice to a very few pages.

Mr. Lunt was born in Newburyport, April 21, 1805, the son of Henry and Mary Green (Pearson) Lunt. His American ancestor, on the father's side, belonged to Newbury, in the county of Berkshire, England, and came from London to New England in 1633. His grandfather was the Henry Lunt, a favorite officer of Commodore Paul Jones, who fought under that commander in the "Bonhomme Richard," and assisted at the capture of the "Serapis;" and, throughout the Revolutionary war, was actively engaged in the service of his country. Naturally of a thoughtful spirit and reserved manners, William passed an unblemished youth more among books than pleasures. He was fitted for college at Milton Academy; and entered Harvard University in 1819, graduating with distinction in 1823. The following year found him at Plymouth, engaged in teaching a school; and from thence he came to Boston, and began the study of the law. It was soon evident, however, that the legal profession was not that which suited best the character of his mind, his tastes, habits, and aspirations. He gave up his law-books after a short trial, and joined the Theological School at Cambridge in 1825. While a member of it, he officiated for a time at the University as a teacher in mathematics. Before he had completed his course of study, he had attracted so much attention, and given such high promise, that he received an invitation to assume the ministry over the Second Congregational Unitarian Society in the city of New York, who had built their church, and were awaiting their first pastor. He was ordained there, June 19, 1828. That sphere of clerical duty was a peculiarly oppressive one to so young a man, of shrinking modesty and a nervous temperament. He labored faithfully, but with an uneven success, till November, 1833, when he asked and obtained leave to be released from

his pastoral charge. Such high gifts, however, as he possessed for his sacred office, in his earnest mind, devout spirit, polished pen, and eloquent utterance, could not long permit him to float at large among the churches. On the 3d of June, 1835, he was installed at Quincy, with the usual solemn services, as colleague pastor with Rev. Peter Whitney, now become an old man. As the minister of the church in Quincy, he finished his course. He preached his parting sermon to the people there on the 28th of December, 1856; and then went from them and from his house, to be seen of them no more.

This most imperfect outline of an uneventful life will give, of itself, some just idea of the character and qualities of the man. Dr. Lunt's devoted and pure mind was of a pensive cast, tending to deep shadow sometimes; rather contemplative than diligent, and not always kept up to the full tone of its best faculties. He was diffident till he was roused and excited; capable of more than he performed; and contented with a persevering silence in the company of others, that was in singular contrast with his fine powers of speech. And yet his time was never frittered away in indolence or the least frivolity; and the vigorous applications of his thought, though to some persons they might appear fitful, were frequent enough to accomplish a large amount, and his whole share, of useful labor. If his talent was not remarkable for versatility, and did not care to travel far beyond the soberest lines of a profession that tasked it to the uttermost, it yet went out with a marked preference and commendable success into the three different departments of philosophy, history, and poetry. His philosophic turn was specially indicated in a sermon preached at Jamaica Plain in 1843, on occasion of the installation of Rev. George Whitney, which took for its theme the Necessity of a Religious Philosophy; in his Address to the Alumni of the Theological School at Cambridge in 1852; and, above all, in his able Dudleian Lecture, pronounced in 1855. His interest in historical researches, particularly those relating to New England, is sufficiently manifest

from the duty of writing this brief Memoir of him, and from the position which he held among the officers of this Society. The two discourses which he delivered on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the First Congregational Church in Quincy are really models in that kind of composition, whether we consider their faithfulness of historic research, the breadth of their religious views, or their rhetorical beauty. His poetical tastes and capabilities were displayed in several occasional pieces, that were received with marked approbation; and in a spiritual poem, called "Psyche," delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society in 1837. His "Collection of Psalms and Hymns," published in 1841 under the title of the "Christian Psalter," though too purely old-fashioned to satisfy modern cravings, is perhaps inferior to no hymn-book that preceded or has followed it, in point either of excellence or serviceableness.

In theology, Dr. Lunt stood far on the right wing, though not on the extreme right, of the Unitarian denomination. Reverence for antiquity and established belief, for the early church and the sacred associations of the past, wrought strongly within him. He loved to hold fast, so far as he could, to the language of Scripture, and to the doctrine, liberally interpreted, which had come down from the fathers. He was more ready to accept, than anxious to define, hallowed phrases. While he was open to new light, he was jealous of innovations. He shrank from all approach to the subversive speculations of the newest criticism. While he repelled, with every power of his intellect, every instinct of his conscience, every throb of his heart, the dogmas of Calvinistic divinity, yet his puritan soul leaned back, as far as it dared, towards ancient formulas. The abstruse conceptions, that had entered into the gospel and the church from Greece and Alexandria, had a vivid importance to his mind. His preaching came from the depths of his Christian convictions; and, aided by a rich voice and skilful elocution and fervid manner, was at times exceedingly impressive, both attracting by its beauty and affecting by its strength. The political and reformatory movements of the day he was

slow to admit into his pulpit. Controversial religion was not to his liking. The biblical neologies of our new times were an offence, if not an alarm, to him. He held the literal Word reverently dear ; although he endeavored to give it an expansive scope, and sought underneath it the most spiritual significances. His parishioners were fully aware of the solid and shining gifts of their minister, and rejoiced in his professional distinction. Nothing was wanting, but that, with a nature more warmly social, and dispositions more demonstrative, he could have drawn nearer to their companionship and private sympathies. But who can be or do all things ? He followed the lead of the best that God had given him ; if sometimes a depressed, always a faithful and true man.

One of his friends, in an unpublished poem written a few years ago, has thrown off a sketch of him, of which the accuracy may make amends for any lack of merit in other respects, and justify the insertion of so slight a fragment into so serious a place.

A "rural bishop" * now,
With pale and furrowed brow,
Draws up his chair beside my bed.
The cloudy orb Satúrn
Drips from its leaden urn
Its damps on his fine nature and clear head.
Long will he silent sit,
If no inspiring fit
Rouse him to animated speech.
His low, unfrequent laugh,
Half gay and plaintive half,
Rolls like grave Ocean toying with the beach.
But give a quickening theme,
And wake his soul from dream,
And you shall feel what magic power
Of skilled melodious tongue,
And energies full strung,
Has Genius in its high, ascendant hour.

* Dr. Lunt was the only minister described in these verses, whose pastorate was in the country, and not in the city of Boston.

Rhetor and poet too,
 With taste severely true,
 He writes for those who can judge well;
 But, when his periods glance
 With burning utterance,
 Both taught and untaught feel the binding spell.

His sudden death, and the affecting manner of it, — so far from his family and his many friends, and in that dreary waste, — produced a profound sensation in the community, and called forth several tributes of praise and sorrow. Just as he was on the point of leaving our shores, the church in New York, with which his first vows were connected, sent him a request that he would sit for his portrait, that it might be preserved among them for a memorial; and now, in the church at Quincy, from which his light has so lately gone out, a mural tablet has been set up, facing the monuments of two illustrious Presidents of the United States, and bearing the following inscription: —

In Memory of
WILLIAM PARSONS LUNT, D.D.,

Pastor of this Church;
 Prized, honored, hamented.
 Theologian, Poet, and Scholar,
 He devoted his life
 To intellectual pursuits and sacred exercises.
 Weighty and accomplished as a writer,
 Eloquent as a Preacher,
 Conservative in a liberal doctrine,
 Of a grave and earnest spirit,
 He loved the highest meditations,
 And meditated the truest services.

Born in Newburyport, April XXI., MDCCCIV.

Installed here June III., MDCCCXXXV.

He died at Ezion-Geber,
 On his way to Jerusalem,
 March XXI., MDCCCLVII.

EVEN SO, SAITH THE SPIRIT;
 FOR THEY REST.

Besides various contributions to the "Christian Examiner," Dr. Lunt is the author of the following publications : —

A Sermon delivered in Quincy, June 7, 1835. 2 Pet. i. 12.

A Sermon at the Ordination of H. G. O. Phipps, 1835. 1 Col. i. 28.

A Sermon at the Installation of Rev. George Whitney, 1836. 1 Cor. ii. 14.

A Christmas Sermon, 1836. Luke i. 35.

Psyche. A Poem delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society in 1837.

An Address delivered in Quincy, July 4, 1838. Moral Education.

Two Discourses delivered Sept. 29, 1839, on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the First Congregational Church in Quincy.

A Discourse delivered at the Funeral of Rev. Peter Whitney, March 7, 1843.

A Discourse preached in Quincy, Nov. 9, 1843. Mark vii. 11.

Artillery Election Sermon. 1847.

A Discourse at the Interment of President John Quincy Adams, March, 1848.

A Discourse delivered in Quincy, Oct. 21, 1849. Matt. xiii. 47, 48.

A Lecture before the Quincy Lyceum, Feb. 7, 1850.

A Discourse delivered in Quincy, Sept. 15, 1850. Eccl. iii. 11.

A Discourse delivered in Quincy, April 10, 1851. Tit. iii. 1, 2.

A Discourse delivered in Washington, Nov. 30, 1851. Tit. i. 15.

An Address before the Alumni of the Cambridge Theological School, July 20, 1852.

A Discourse delivered in Quincy, Nov. 25, 1852, commemorative of Daniel Webster.

A Discourse delivered in Quincy, Jan. 8, 1854. John v. 41.

A Discourse delivered in Quincy, June 25, 1854. 1 John iv. 1.

The Dudleian Lecture for 1855.

A Discourse delivered in Quincy, June 3, 1855. "A Sheaf of Years."

"The Last Sermon," Dec. 28, 1856. Ps. cvii. 7.